

House File 331 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 331

BY FRY

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to waiver or alteration of work search
2 requirements for unemployment benefits due to a short-term
3 temporary layoff.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 96.4, subsection 3, paragraph b, Code
2 2023, is amended to read as follows:

3 b. Notwithstanding any provision of *this chapter* to the
4 contrary, the department may establish by rule a process to
5 waive or alter the work search requirements of *this subsection*
6 for a claim for benefits if an individual has a reasonable
7 expectation that the individual will be returning to employment
8 and is attached to a regular job or industry or a member in
9 good standing of a union therein eligible for referral for
10 employment. To be considered attached to a regular job or
11 industry, an individual must be on a short-term temporary
12 layoff. If work is not available at the conclusion of the
13 layoff period due to short-term circumstances beyond the
14 employer's control, the employer may request an extension
15 of the waiver or alteration for up to two weeks from the
16 department. For purposes of this paragraph, "*short-term*
17 *temporary layoff*" means a layoff period of sixteen weeks or
18 less, with a specific return-to-work date verified by the
19 employer, ~~due to seasonal weather conditions that impact the~~
20 ~~ability to perform work related to highway construction,~~
21 ~~repair, or maintenance with a specific return-to-work date~~
22 ~~verified by the employer~~ any of the following:

23 (1) The ability of the individual to perform work related to
24 highway construction, repair, or maintenance.

25 (2) The ability of the individual to perform work, provided
26 the individual is at least seventy years of age.

27 EXPLANATION

28 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
29 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

30 Under current law, the department of workforce development
31 may establish by rule a process to waive or alter the work
32 search requirements for a claim for unemployment benefits if
33 an individual has a reasonable expectation that the individual
34 will be returning to employment and is attached to a regular
35 job or industry or a member in good standing of a union therein

1 eligible for referral for employment. To be considered
2 attached to a regular job or industry, an individual must be
3 on a short-term temporary layoff, defined as a layoff period
4 of 16 weeks or less, with a specific return-to-work date
5 verified by the employer, due to seasonal weather conditions
6 that impact the ability of the individual to perform work
7 related to highway construction, repair, or maintenance. This
8 bill provides that a layoff period of 16 weeks or less, with
9 a specific return-to-work date verified by the employer, due
10 to seasonal weather conditions that impact the ability of the
11 individual to perform work, provided the individual is at least
12 70 years of age, is also defined as a short-term temporary
13 layoff.